

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-34 are currently pending. Claims 2, 4, 6, 17, 18, 22, 30, and 31 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,370 to Kamper (hereinafter “the ‘370 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,555,408 to Fujisawa et al. (hereinafter “the ‘408 patent”).

Amended Claim 2 is directed to a method of managing information, comprising: (1) identifying a word of an image as a keyword; (2) determining a search result corresponding to the keyword; (3) displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result, the pop-up menu including a list of selectable documents corresponding to the content of the search result; and (4) displaying additional information in response to a selection of a document in the list of documents in the pop-up menu. The changes to Claim 2 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

Regarding the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the ‘370 patent discloses everything in Claim 2 with the exception of “a pop-up menu based on a content of the search result,”² and relies on the ‘408 patent to remedy that deficiency.

The ‘370 patent is directed to a search interface including a highlight tool used to identify search terms in a HTML document displayed on a web browser. The ‘370 patent

¹ See, e.g., Figures 3 and 4 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

² See page 4 of the outstanding Office Action.

discloses that upon selection of text, a pop-up menu appears that offers the user the option of searching for the text.³ Further, as shown in Figure 5H, the '370 patent discloses a system in which an optional pop-up menu is displayed to allow the user to save links to web pages obtained by a search, without requiring the user to visit the website. However, as admitted in the Office Action, the '370 patent fails to disclose displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result, as recited in Claim 2. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '370 patent fails to disclose a pop-up menu including a list of selectable documents corresponding to the search result, as recited in amended Claim 2. Since the Office Action admits that the '370 patent fails to disclose a pop-up menu prepared based on the content of the search result, it follows that the '370 patent must also fail to disclose that the pop-up menu includes a list of selectable documents corresponding to the content the search result.

The '408 patent is directed to a knowledge-based system for retrieving information by using a concept-relation model that expresses knowledge by a plurality of interconnected nodes, each node representing a concept corresponding to information included in the node, and the node being connected to other nodes by links. Further, the '408 patent discloses a visual interface that provides several views on the contents of the knowledge base associated with the system and allows a user to browse through the knowledge base and to show relevant information to the users. In particular, as shown in Figures 21-32, the '408 patent discloses a system in which a user can select various concepts that correspond to nodes in the database. In particular, as shown in Figure 32, the '408 patent discloses a pop-up menu 2308 that shows, in that example, a list of computer companies located in Japan.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '408 patent fails to disclose displaying a pop-up menu that includes a list of selectable documents corresponding to the

³ See the '370 patent, Figures 5C and 5F.

contents of a search result, as recited in amended Claim 2. The elements shown in the pop-up menu in Figure 32 are not selectable documents, but merely a list of particular information requested by the user. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '408 patent fails to disclose displaying additional information in response to a selection of a document in the list of documents in the pop-up menu, as recited in amended Claim 2. Since the '408 patent does not disclose that the pop-up menu includes a list of selectable documents, it cannot disclose displaying additional information in response to a selection of a document in the list of the documents in the pop-up menu, as required by Claim 2.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '370 and '408 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the displaying steps recited in Claim 2. In particular, no matter now the teachings of the '370 and '408 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest displaying a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of a search result, the pop-up menu including a list of selectable documents corresponding to the content of the search result; and displaying additional information in response to a selection of a document in the list of documents in the pop-up menu, as recited in Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 2 (and all associated dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 2.

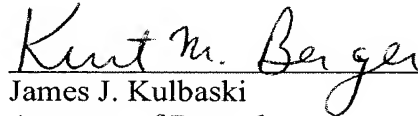
Independent Claims 17, 30, and 31 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 2. Moreover, Claims 17, 30, and 31 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 2. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 17, 30, and 31 (and all associated dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to the independent claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 2, 17, 30, and 31 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '370 and '408 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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